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GROWING OBJECTIONS

With the proposed freight rate increase expected to produce more inflationary pressures throughout this country, particularly in the Maritimes, British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces, the objections to this decision are increasing rather than decreasing with time. Judging from reports heard along Parliament Hill, with protests coming here from all parts of Canada as the premiers of seven provinces are preparing to take appropriate action to appeal this decision when they meet here on April 21th. In addition, it is understood that lawyers are studying points of appeal too.

Furthermore it is significant that whips heard on Parliament Hill now show the development of an opinion that political, social and economic angles of this decision should be reviewed instead of the cold road economics.

"The matter of the freight rate question is to my mind, still in the pending stage," said Transport Minister Chevrier in the House of Commons, during a debate on this issue. "There has been a tendency in this debate today to confuse two issues, the one which was the increase recommended by the Board of Transport Commissioners and the other which was the equalization of the rates or to use the expression mentioned at various times in the debate a discrimination in the rates across Canada."

Mr. Chevrier made it clear that those two issues are quite separate one from the other.

"The board in this case was dealing with one specific matter, namely an application not by the Government of Canada but by the rail-

ways though the Railway Association of Canada representing some 20 railways to the Board for an increase in freight rates," declare Mr. Chevrier, emphasizing that "if anyone reads the judgement carefully he can come to no other conclusion than that the Board had not before it an application to consider or investigate or make a survey of the equalization of rates from one of the country to the other."

FINANCE RATHER THAN GOODS

In face of a flood of stories circulating now that the \$6,098,000,000 Marshall plan for European Recovery will possibly bring an early end to Canada's 'austerity' program by bringing more U.S. dollars to this country, yet there is no sign of such optimism in informed quarters in this capital. Likewise, speculation that this Marshall plan would create an enormous demand for goods of all kinds in Canada so that prices would rise sensationally with anticipated shortages is also not in strict accord with information gathered here.

Somehow or other the man in the street especially the 'little business man', is under this impression about the effects of the Marshall plan on Canada. However it must be pointed out now that in regard to Canada, this European Recovery program will likely mean much more in adjusting financial arrangements for Canadian shipments abroad and aid, not necessarily cure, the U.S. dollar shortage than anything else.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

The desire of the Government as shown in a motion made in the House of Commons, to give precedence to consideration of government business for an indefinite period is being interpreted on Parliament Hill as indicative that it wants to move as quickly as possible in handling the heavy agenda still remaining so that, if possible, it may wind up the present session by July, avoiding to keep the House in session during Ottawa's extremely hot mid-summer months.

It is understood here that, if the current session will not wind up by July, it is quite likely that the House may adjourn for the summer months and meet again in the fall, particularly since it is unlikely that the House would be in session during the National Liberal Convention scheduled to gather here Aug. 5, 6, and 7 to choose a successor to Premier King in addition to the heat factor.

LOWER COSTS

According to stories heard backstage on Parliament Hill now-a-days it would not be surprising in the least if the costs of building new homes in Canada will start a downward movement within the next few months and this should be good news for thousands of Canadians who are suffering hardships during this housing crisis. Apparently with some exceptions, building supplies are becoming more plentiful and more construction work will be undertaken, with general buyer's resistance to high prices among prospective home builders causing definite effects. As a result of this tightening up of available cash, prices should start downward before long.

WARNING IS ISSUED

Reports that firms in other lines have been offering better premiums to the public with minimum purchases in order to boost their sales have brought the fast reaction here that such actions, if they become widespread will be stopped by the authorities. This practice runs counter to the general policy of encouraging normal distribution and should it increase the Board will issue a prohibition order," said Chairman Kenneth Taylor of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, pointing out that the Board's 'conditional sales' order is still in effect, with this prohibiting the practice of demanding that a customer buy a particular item before being allowed to purchase another. This applies in all cases where the goods involved are under price ceilings.

JUST A DOLLAR BUT—

In the midst of passing hundreds of millions of dollars to run the national business, the House of Commons has also included a one dollar item. In November, 1945, Sgt. Frank R. Snow of Winnipeg applied for veteran's insurance of \$1,000 and paid the premium. One month later, he died. The application had not been finally approved and it could not be legally paid since the insurance scheme was young then, involving delays before the forms reached Ottawa. Ever since then the Department of Veterans has sought a way to pay the claim to the widow, feeling a moral obligation. Finally it was discovered that if Parliament approved the \$1. payment, the DVA (continued on page 5)

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For its price, this little hand lever gun is a honey. It was developed during the war for greasing military vehicles in mobile warfare. Light to carry, yet it exerts enough pressure to force the grease through to all moving parts. Can be used for all types of light-bodied, heavy-bodied or fibrous greases.

OR THIS

25 LBS. MARVELUBE No. 11 GREASE WITH ALEMITE PRESSURE GUN



This pressure gun with flexible hose, which attaches to the top of the pail, is the ideal outfit for those who operate a lot of equipment. It is strongly constructed, yet is light enough to be carried anywhere. Saves time and keeps grease clean. Costs more than the hand-lever gun (above) but gives you high value for the money.

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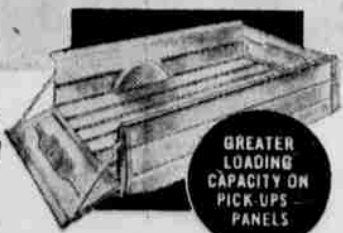
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